

Native Americans Learn from I.P.M. Garden

The Situation

Nez Perce tribal members have a renewed interest in backyard gardens. However, new gardeners may lack basic gardening skills and integrated pest management concepts. In addition, garden produce is needed for the Food and Nutrition Center that supplies food for those in need.

Our Response

A community IPM garden has been grown on the Nez Perce Reservation in Lapwai, Idaho, in cooperation with the USDA/Nez Perce Tribe Food Distribution Center.

Our Goals

- ?? To educate citizens on the Nez Perce Reservation about gardening, planting, husbandry, harvesting, and the use of least-toxic IPM pest control practices.
- ?? To help build self-sufficiency among tribal members.
- ?? To provide fresh vegetables to the USDA Tribal Food Center for dispersal to those in need (service provided to 280 people monthly).
- ?? To plant, maintain, and harvest the IPM garden by utilizing the volunteer efforts of master gardeners and tribal members.
- ?? To provide educational programs about making healthy food choices.

Achievements

The Lapwai garden tour provided gardeners with new IPM and least-toxic pest control information. According to a class questionnaire, 100 percent of those attending the tour indicated the IPM information will be put to use in their home gardens. Other beneficial achievements:

- ?? Fresh produce was provided to the tribal emergency food bank.
- ?? Tribal volunteers and master gardeners developed gardening skills.
- ?? Integrated pest management (least-toxic) gardening principals were demonstrated.
- ?? Garden education tours were conducted.

Cooperators

Nez Perce Tribe
USDA Commodity Food Center
UI/Nez Perce County Master Gardeners

The Future

Continue to educate tribal members and others about gardening, integrated pest management, and safe food choices.

For More Information

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